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DEC 29 2006

REMARKS

The Office Action dated September 29, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-6 are pending, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1 and 3-4 under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because "the proper labels or legend corresponding to all blocks must be provided. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing" (Para. 4 of Office Action, lines 1-3). In response, Applicant respectfully submits that all blocks are labeled and such structural detail is depicted in Figures 1 and 3-4 as filed. Further, Applicant submits that items labeled in these figures are adequately described in the corresponding sections of the specification. Still further, 37 CFR 1.84(p)(1), which relates to "Numbers, letters and reference characters" used in drawings, specifically states that numerals are preferred for reference characters.

Nevertheless, in the interests of furthering prosecution, Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings for Figs. 1, 3 and 4 in Appendix A. In the amended drawings, labels have been added to various elements as they are described in the body of the specification. No new matter has been added. With the submission of the replacement figures, applicant believes that the reason for the examiner's objection to the drawings has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,983,099 (Tanaka).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the examiner's reason for rejecting the claims.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly delineate the features of the invention. Claim 1 as amended recites:

An arrangement which can be activated for an operating time, the arrangement comprising:

- a modular unit that can be started and stopped,
- starting means which are designed for starting the modular unit,
- stopping means which are designed for stopping the started modular unit, the stopping means comprising:
 - delay means which are designed for delaying the stopping of the modular unit in accordance with a run-out time during the operating time of the arrangement, and
 - changing means which are designed for changing the run-out time;
- wherein the run-out time is independent of a delay, if any, in the starting of the modular unit.

As recited above, the present invention as defined by claim 1, relates to a modular unit having a stopping means wherein the stopping means comprises a delay means. The delay means delays the stopping of the modular unit in accordance with a run-out time, said run-out time being capable of being changed by a changing means. The newly added feature of claim 1 recites that the run-out time is independent of a delay, if any, in the starting of the modular unit. Support for this feature is found, inter alia, in the specification at paragraph [0032].

Tanaka relates to a device which is used to edit recorded image signals. The passages of Tanaka cited in the Office Action's rejection of claim 1 (Paragraph 6 of the Office Action) primarily relate to addressing the problem in the art whereby starting of the recording device is delayed due to inherent mechanical properties. Tanaka teaches how this lag or delay can be determined and accounted for in his editing process (col. 7, lines 56-64). Fig. 9 of Tanaka illustrates how a determined delay of 3 frames is implemented in the adjustment to the starting IN point. The stopping OUT point is also delayed 3 frames – but only as a consequence of the delayed start. That is, the duration of the recording is maintained constant. The recording window (and hence the stopping point) is merely slid 3 frames to the right as a consequence of the determined delayed start.

Tanaka does not teach or imply that *the run-out time is independent of a delay, if any, in the starting of the modular unit*. Tanaka teaches away from this feature of claim 1. That is, as noted above, Tanaka sets his run-out time to be equal to his determined starting delay.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element recited therein is expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Tanaka cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Tanaka fails to disclose each and every element recited. As shown, Tanaka fails to disclose the limitation of “the run-out time is independent of a delay, if any, in the starting of the modular unit” as is recited in claim 1.

Having shown that Tanaka fails to disclose each and every element claimed, Applicant submits that the reason for the examiner's rejection of the claim has been overcome and can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

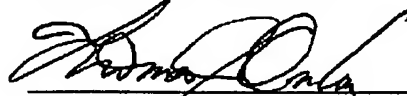
With regard to claims 2-6, these claims ultimately depend from claim 1, which has been shown to be not anticipated and allowable in view of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 2-6 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In particular, with respect to claim 2, Applicant submits that the feature of "counting start/stop cycles" is neither taught nor suggested by Tanaka to change the run-out time. Further, with respect to the rejections of claims 3-6, Applicant submits that Fig. 9, cited in the Office Action rejection of these claims, fails to teach or suggest any of the claimed features.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Piotrowski
Registration No. 42,079



By: Thomas Onka
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,053

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Mail all correspondence to:
Dan Piotrowski, Registration No. 42,079
US PHILIPS CORPORATION
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9624
Fax: (914) 332-0615

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Thomas J. Onka
(Name of Registered Rep.)

Thomas Onka 12/29/06
(Signature and Date)

Appendix A